THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In Andhra Pradesh 11 tourist complexes (Yatriniwases) have been sanctioned during Ninth Plan for Rs. 411.00 lakhs. Under the scheme for grant of interest subsidy on loans to 1-3 Star Hotels, seven hotel projects in the private sector in Andhra Pradesh have been extended interest subsidy benefits.

(d) Funds are provided to the State/UT Governments for tourism-related projects including budget accommodation every year on the basis of projects identified in consultation with them.

Rejection of World Heritage Sites for incomplete information

4368. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 Indian proposals for grant of World Heritage Sites were rejected for incomplete information; and

(b) if so, the action taken to re-submit the proposals with appeal to treat them as fresh requests at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Eleven nominations for cultural sites of India were submitted to the UNESCO in 1998 for inscribing on the World Heritage List. The UNESCO required some additional information on these proposals and also offered to depute an expert to redraft some of the nominations.

Meanwhile, under the revised rules of UNESCO, countries which already have World Heritage Sites enlisted are henceforth restricted from submitting more than one nomination per year.

(b) Accordingly, Government of India have submitted a nomination for inscribing the Pre-historic Painted Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka in District Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, for World Heritage status. The proposal is under consideration.

Special scheme for encouraging tourism

†4369. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a special scheme to encourage tourism;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.